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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

App. No. : 10/604,514 Confirmation No. 1513
Applicant : Masuhiro Natsuhara et al.
Filed : July 28, 2003
T.C./A.U. : 1763
Examiner : Ram N. Kackar
Docket No. : 39.020-AG
Customer No. : 29453

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Accompanying Request for Continued Examination
Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114

Sir:

In response to the Office action, made final and mailed on December 2, 2005 in the above-identified patent application, Applicants have elected to file a Request for Continued Examination (RCE).

As a submission required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(a), the following amendment accompanies the present RCE. (The RCE is being filed on April 2, 2006 along with a petition for a one-month extension of time, and is therefore timely filed.)

AMENDMENT Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 4 of this paper.